

PUMPKIN ART WITH YAYOI KUSAMA



Yayoi Kusama, *Pumpkin*, 1991. Acrylic on canvas, 91 x 116.7 cm. Collection of the artist. © YAYOI KUSAMA

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KUSAMA & HER POLKA-DOT PUMPKINS

Yayoi Kusama is from Japan. Many people there did not think pumpkins were particularly beautiful. In fact, “pumpkin head” is even used as an insult.

But Kusama loved the pumpkin’s round shape and ridges. That’s why she created many pumpkin artworks, decorated with her famous dots.

Today, we’re making a dotted pumpkin too; a real one!



Yayoi Kusama, *Pumpkin*, 1991. Acrylic on canvas, 91 × 116.7 cm. Collection of the artist. © YAYOI KUSAMA

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- A pumpkin
 - A knife
 - A spoon
 - An apple corer, drill, skewer or anything else you can use to make holes
 - A tealight candle
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- Tip: If you soak the hollowed pumpkin in water with vinegar, it will stay fresh longer!



Photo: Iris Schipper.

STEP 1: CUT AN OPENING

- Use a knife to cut an opening in the top of the pumpkin. Make sure it is large enough for your hand to fit through.
- Tip: Carefully cut out the lid in one piece so you can place it back on the pumpkin later.



Photo: Iris Schipper

STEP 2: HOLLOW IT OUT

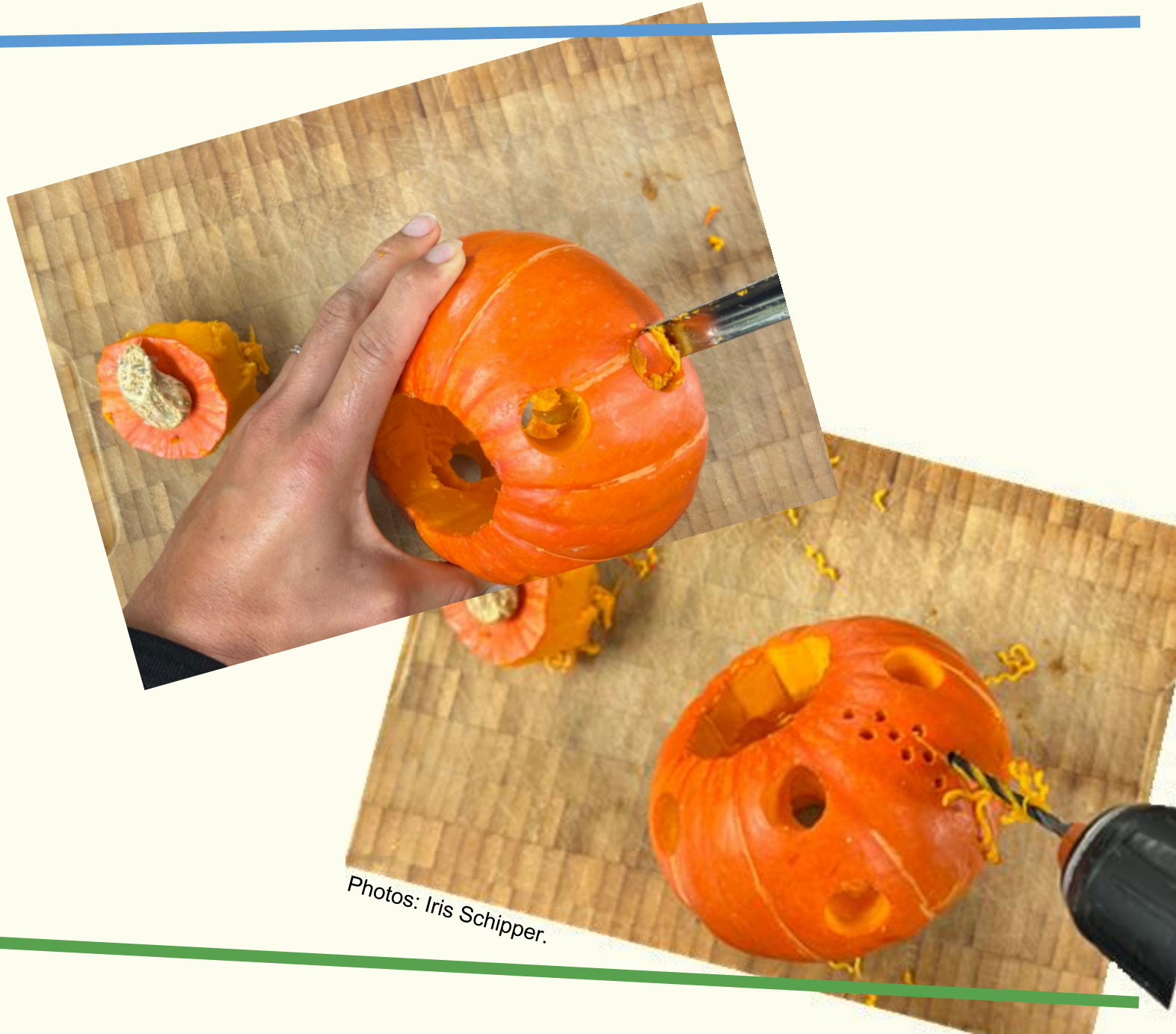
- Hollow out the pumpkin completely. Use a spoon to scrape away all seeds and fibers from the inside. You can also use your hands.



Photo: Iris Schipper

STEP 3: MAKE HOLES!

- An apple corer makes it easy to create holes in the pumpkin. This creates dots, just like on Kusama's pumpkins.
- A drill makes it even faster!
- Tip: Make dots in different sizes and create a fun pattern.



Photos: Iris Schipper.

TA-DA!

- Finished your pumpkin?
Place a tealight inside and
light it. Watch your design
glow!



Photos: Iris Schipper.



STEP 5: LEAVE YOUR WORKSPACE TIDY 🍅



Foto: Iris Schipper.

SEE YOU SOON!



Children in front of *My Eternal Soul*, 2009-21. Acrylic on canvas, detail. © YAYOI KUSAMA. Photo: Chris Haakman.



Child in front of *The Universe as Seen from the Stairway to Heaven*, 2021. Mirror, glass, and acrylic sheet, detail, courtesy of Ota Fine Arts. © YAYOI KUSAMA. Photo: Chris Haakman.

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